



Mississippi State Senate

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Senator Burton Embraces Broadband Choice Act

Thanks to the recently introduced Broadband Investment and Consumer Choice Act of 2005 (S. 1504), Mississippi residents may soon experience the considerable promise of a new era in telecommunications. The legislation, introduced by U.S. Senators Ensign and McCain on July 27, would be the first comprehensive update to U.S. communications laws in nearly a decade. The legislation takes a comprehensive approach to reforming nearly decade-old laws that barely even acknowledge the existence of the Internet. The crux of the bill: free all companies to invest and compete head-to-head, allowing consumer choice to determine market winners and unlocking the full potential of real competition, rich investment and rampant innovation.

State Senator Terry Burton, who sits on the American Legislative Exchange Council's Information Technology and Telecommunications Task Force, said of the bill, "Broad reform will spur significant investment, job creation and growth throughout our economy. It takes into account the new and emerging technologies that did not exist when the Telecom Act was last revised in 1996. This bill goes a long way toward creating a level playing field for the industry. With the adoption of the Broadband Choice Act, we will see renewed investment and innovative, expanding consumer choices as market principles trigger the spread of new technologies in rural areas. With so much to gain in Mississippi and beyond, it is critical for the Senate to support this bill." Burton serves the 31st District in the Mississippi Senate, comprised of Lauderdale, Newton and Scott counties.